

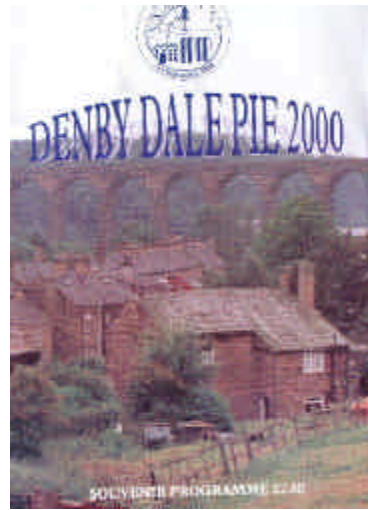
DENBY DALE CC

DOWN YOUR WAY

10 PIES, 3 MILLS & 2 VIADUCTS

DENBY
DALE:
THE
VILLAGE

Denby Dale, otherwise known as the 'Pie Village' (because of its extraordinary and according to one writer 'highly idiosyncratic' way of celebrating events by baking huge pies), could probably today compete with Skelmanthorpe for the title of the area's 'most populous community'. This would certainly have shocked the earliest residents of Denby Dale, or Denby Dike, as it was then known.



The growth of Denby Dale, like that of many other villages in Huddersfield and the West Riding of Yorkshire, is inseparable from the mechanisation of the textile industry and the changes in transportation and communication brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Prior to this Denby Dale's population was sparse and the area was home only to a small number of farmsteads scattered well above the River Dearne.

It is difficult to pinpoint precisely when people first settled in Denby Dale; unlike its neighbour Denby, Denby Dale is not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is probable that the village was uninhabited at this time; the ground would have been marshy, prone to flooding and therefore unsuitable for grazing cattle.

However, we do know that by the mid to late eighteenth century when George III was on the throne (1760-1820), there was a corn mill in existence in the village along with fulling and scribbling mills. These were all sited close to the River Dearne to make use of the plentiful supply of water. And, of course, we know that the

village was inhabited by 1788/89 when the first Denby Dale pie was baked (we cannot be precise about the date of the first Denby Dale pie, if indeed it was the first.



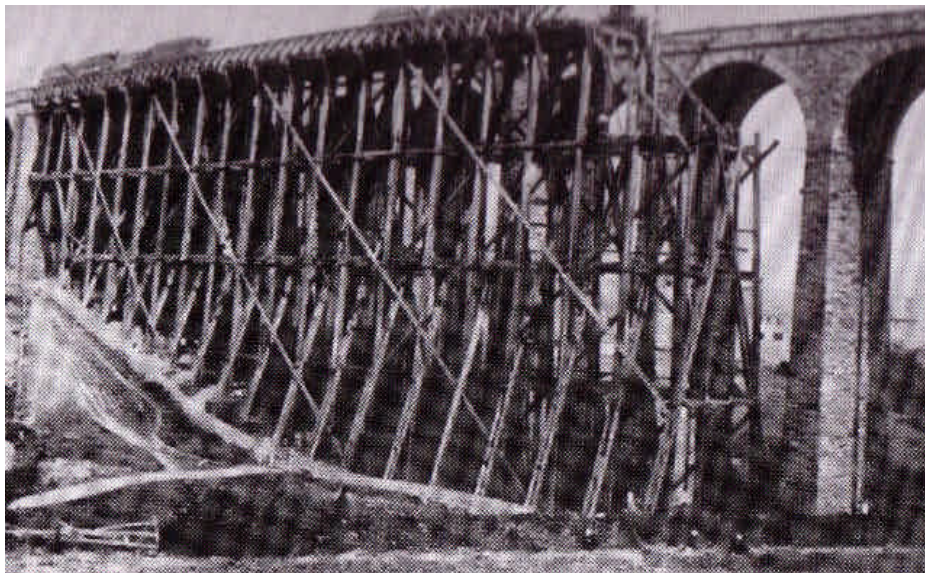
King George III
– the motivation for the first pie?

Records state the pie was baked in 1788 but this is at odds with the accepted reason for the baking, namely the recovery of King George III from one of his many bouts of mental illness. George's madness apparently took the form of him foaming at the mouth and talking to a tree, at least part of which he has in common with a later member of the Royal Family.

George's excuse for talking to the tree was an impressive if unconvincing one: he believed the tree to be Frederick of Prussia! The date of 1789 is more likely to be the date of the first pie because it was in this year, rather than 1788, that George's recovery (albeit a temporary one) took place. A service of

thanksgiving was held at St Paul's Cathedral in April 1789 in celebration).

The industry that would transform Denby Dale from a sparsely populated area to a thriving, industrious village had certainly arrived by the time of the first pie and by 1799 one John Wood, 'a clothier of Denby Dykeside', is recorded as being the owner of a 'dwelling house, shop, dyehouse and outbuildings.' These buildings would eventually become part of the large complex which is now Z Hinchliffe & Sons.



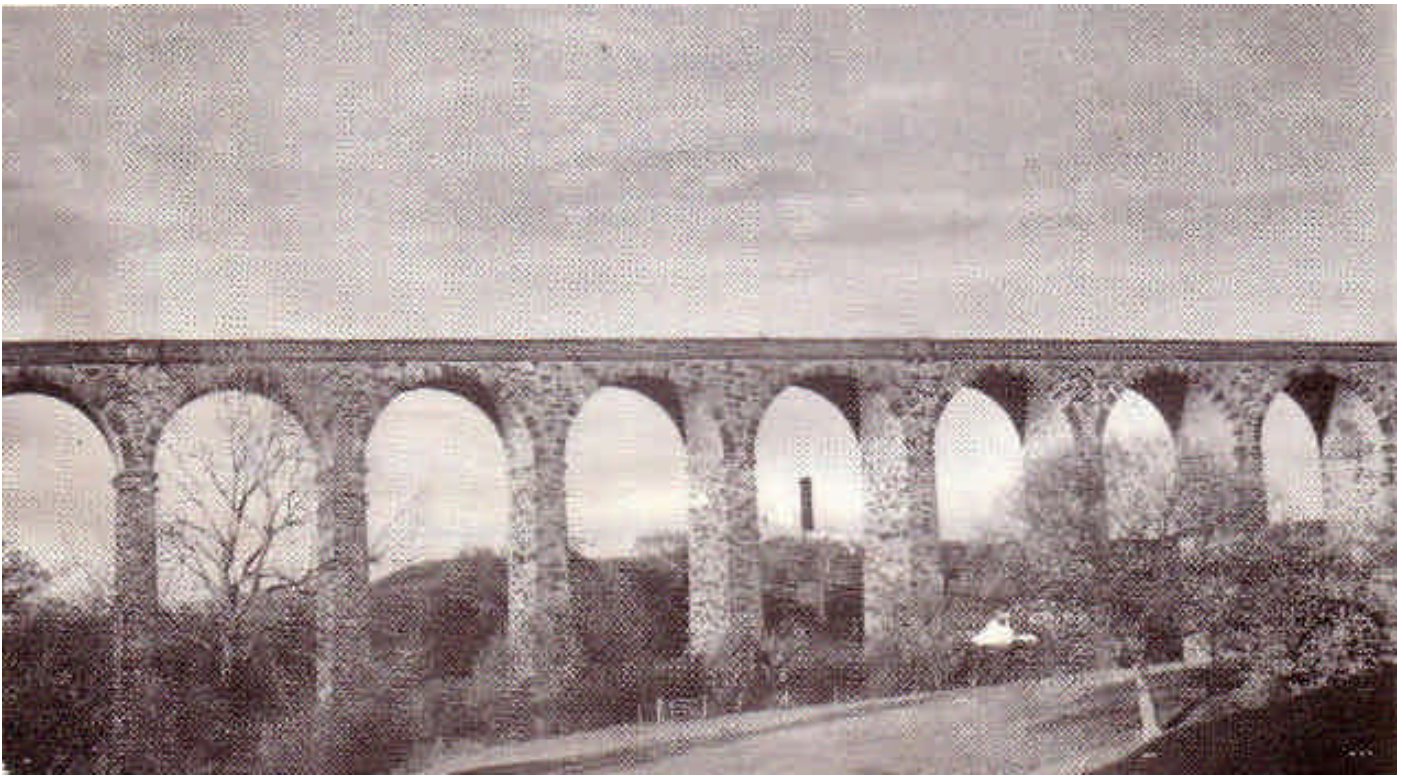
The dismantling of the first Denby Dale Viaduct

Despite the arrival of the textile industry in the village, Denby Dale remained a small and comparatively isolated place and was still at this time known as Denby Dike. It was only as a result of the building of two turnpike roads (the Barnsley and Shepley Lane turnpike in 1825 and the Wakefield to Denby Dale turnpike road a year later) and the arrival of the railway

that Denby Dike began its transformation to the Denby Dale we know today.

These improvements in transport and communications not only attracted industry, particularly the mills, but also provided the village with a landmark which, whilst not as tall as Emley mast, is certainly a grand spectacle – Denby Dale Viaduct.

Denby Denby today is still busy with wool even though two out of the three mills have closed: Springfield Mill is now home to local shops whilst nearby Dearnside Mill has become Kenyon Bank housing estate. The viaduct still looms over the village (the present one being made of stone, replacing the previous wooden one in 1877) and unlike many other villages the railway is still in operation.



The second Denby Dale Viaduct

And, of course, the tradition of pie making continues; the most recent effort, the tenth pie, was baked in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. Those visiting Toby Wood after the Millennium Pie event were spared the big surprise that awaited their antecedents in 1887, Toby Wood being the burial site of the condemned and 'gamey' pie baked in August of that year. The writer can confirm that the Millennium Pie was delicious, if a little heavy on the gravy.

METHODISTS & MILLS!

DENBY DALE (THE VILLAGE): 3 KEY FACTS

1. Religion - By the middle of the eighteenth century Methodism was becoming popular, particularly in the industrial areas. There was a shortage of Anglican clergymen outside the capital and this, along with the complacency of the Church of England and the lack of churches in many areas (some people having to walk in excess of 7 miles to reach their nearest church), opened the door to non-conformity.

In the absence of a church, newly built chapels became the religious centres of the rapidly expanding textile villages and these areas became strongholds for non-conformism. Denby Dale was no different. By the late eighteenth century one Mr Wood had started Denby Dale's Methodist movement in outbuildings at the rear of his own home.



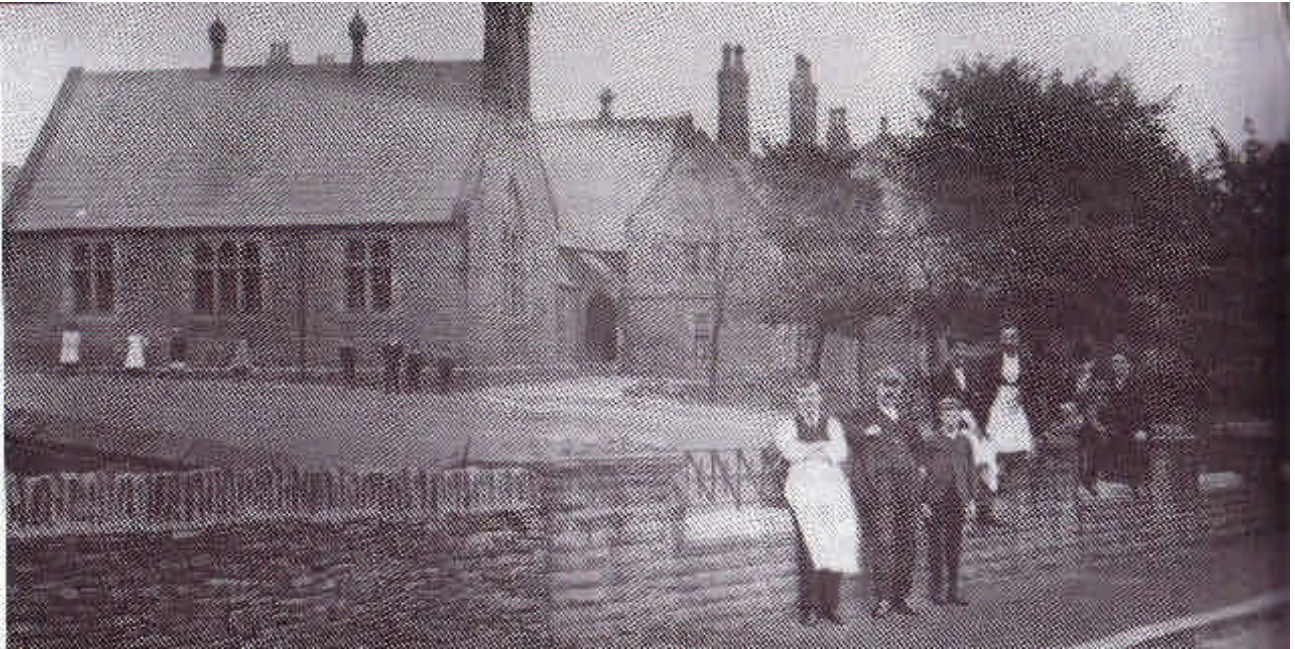
Denby Dale Methodist Church

By 1799 the Wesleyan Chapel on Cumberworth Lane had been erected. The Primitive Methodists, not to be outdone, had built their own chapel by 1837 (this closed in 1962) and the Wesleyan Reform Movement's Chapel (sited on Barnsley Road) was in use by 1860.

Surprisingly, for a community with Denby Dale's population, the village does not have a parish church but Holy Trinity Church (built as late as 1939) offers Church of England followers a place to worship.

2. Education - Denby Dale School on Wakefield Road opened on 8th July 1874. Records show that two months later 257 scholars had been admitted. This might have been a problem for the school if all 257 scholars attended on a regular basis but prior to school attendances becoming compulsory in 1881 and for a good while afterwards, many children were kept off school so that they could work.

It was usual for between 60 and 100 out of the 257 registered at the school to turn up on a given day and attendance was always low during harvesting and potato picking. Those attending Denby Dale School in the nineteenth century would have been taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, scripture, singing and needlework (girls only).



Denby Dale School

Records show that the school suffered from heating problems and flooding. On 9th October 1876 flooding in the girls' yard was so bad (girls and boys then had separate yards and entrances) that to enter the school the girls had to walk on stepping-stones. This was not the only problem; girls attending the school had to contend with their toilets (which were outside) having no doors.

During the 1960s Denby Dale's population expanded as new housing estates were built and it was agreed that a new school was needed, Denby Dale School being nearly one hundred years old and having insufficient room to cope with rising numbers. In 1976 Gilthwaites First School opened its doors and has been teaching the children of Denby Dale ever since. The old school on Wakefield Road is, however, still playing a role in the lives of the area's children – it is now Denby Dale Nursery.

3.Z. Hinchliffe & Sons - In 1850 John Hinchliffe, Zachariah's father, purchased Hartcliffe Mills in Denby Dale. Apparently the Hinchliffes chose Denby Dale over Holmfirth (where many other mills were being built) because they saw the potential that the railway would bring to the village and indeed this opened shortly after Hartcliffe Mills was acquired by the family. (Perhaps this was a wise move in light of the damage caused to Holmfirth by the 1852 Flood).



Hartcliffe Mills – home of Z Hinchliffe & Sons for over 150 years

After John Hinchliffe's death in 1870, Zachariah took over the business and changed the name to the one we know today. He also built 'Strathdearne', the family home, on the slopes above the mill – no doubt so that he could keep an eye on goings-on! Z. Hinchliffe & Sons has witnessed many changes over the years but as one writer puts it the company has 'stood the test of time' (today it is regarded as being one of the Top 65 of UK Yarn Suppliers) as has the cricket club which Zachariah's third son, Thomas Albert Hinchliffe, played a large part in founding – Denby Dale Cricket Club.

SAVILES & STORMS

DENBY DALE – KEY DATES BEFORE THE CRICKET CLUB WAS FOUNDED

1772 The manorial corn mill is marked on a map of Yorkshire along with a group of houses. The mill was owned by the Lord of the Manor, in this case the Savile family. All his tenants were required to take their grain to be ground at this mill and had to pay for the facility.

1788/1789 According to records the baking of what we can only assume was the first Denby Dale pie.

1815 The second pie, celebrating the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, is baked.



1834 The entry for Denby Dale in Pigot & Co's National Commercial Directory is as follows: 'Denby Dale is a hamlet, partly in the chapelry of Denby, and partly in Cumberworth chapelry, situate about midway between the

two places and about 4 and half miles NW from Penistone. The inhabitants of the hamlet are employed in the woollen and stuff manufactures. There is a chapel for the Wesleyan Methodists. Two fairs are held here, one on Easter Monday, the other on the 5th November.'

1846 The third Denby Dale Pie, celebrating the Repeal of the Corn Laws, is baked. Building work begins on the first viaduct.

1847 17 January: there is a tremendous storm which causes great damage to the viaduct.

1850 1st July: the railway station at Denby Dale opens.

1854 Jonas Kenyon & Sons build their mill.

1868 Brownhill and Scatchard acquire Inkerman Mills.

1876 There is an outbreak of diphtheria in the village.



1877 Work on the present stone viaduct begins.

1880 16 May: the official opening of Denby Dale's second viaduct.

1884 The old wooden viaduct is dismantled.

1887 27th August: the fourth pie, celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, is baked. This pie turned out to be 'gamey' and had to be buried in quick lime in Toby Wood. 3rd September: the fifth pie, the Resurrection Pie, is baked.

180 NOT OUT!

KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN KIRKLEES

1825: Lascelles Hall Cricket Club founded.

1842: Dalton play Sheffield for £30.

1867: *Huddersfield Examiner* publishes scores or reports on 209 matches featuring 107 different teams.



1868: Fartown ground leased by Huddersfield St. Johns C.C.. Savile Ground, Dewsbury, hosts game between All England XI and United All England XI.

1873: Batley legend Louis Hall makes Yorkshire bow.

1883: Lumb Cup and Heavy Woollen Cup born.

1886: Huddersfield Cricket Association is formed.

1887-9: Dewsbury Savile C.C. win hat-trick of Heavy Woollen Cup titles.

1892: 10 Clubs take part in inaugural Huddersfield & District Cricket League competition.

LOCAL RIVALS!

OTHER NEARBY CRICKET VILLAGES



Clayton West



Cumberworth



Denby



Nortonthorpe